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THE
Wandring Beauty.
OR, THE
Lucky Fair One.

By Mrs. *A. BEHN.*

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THE Wandring Beauty.

I Was not above Twelve Years old, as near as I can remember, when a Lady of my Acquaintance, who was particularly concerned in many of the Paſſages, very pleaſantly Entertained me with the Relation of the Young Lady *Arabella*'s Adventures, who was Eldeſt Daughter to Sir *Francis Fairname*, a Gentleman of a Noble Family, and of a very large Eſtate in the Weſt of *England*, a True Church-Man, a great Loyaliſt, and a moſt diſcreetly Indulgent Parent: nor was his Lady any way Inferiourr to him in every Circumſtance of Virtue. They had only Two Children more, and thoſe were of the ſoft, unhappy Sex too; all very Beautiful, eſpecially *Arabella*, and all very much alike; Piouſly Educated, and Courtly too, of Naturally Virtuous Principles and Inclinations.

'Twas about the Sixteenth Year of her Age that Sir *Robert Richland*, her Father's great Friend, and inſeparable Companion, but Superiour to him in Eſtate, as well as Years, felt the Reſiſtleſs Beauty of this young Lady Raging and Burning in his Aged Veins, which had like to have been as Fatal to him, as a Conſumption, or his Climacterical Year of Sixty Three, in which he dy'd, as I am told, though he was then hardly Sixty. However, the *Winter* Medlar wou'd fain have been Inoculated in the *Summer*'s Nacturine. His unſeaſonable Appetite grew ſo ſtrong and inordinate, that he was oblig'd to diſcover it to Sir *Francis*; who, though he lov'd him very ſincerely, had yet a Regard to his Daughter's Youth, and Satisfaction in the Choice of a Husband; eſpecially when he conſider'd the great diſproportion in their Age, which he rightly imagined wou'd be very diſagreeable to *Arabella*'s Inclinations: This made him at firſt uſe all the moſt powerful and perſuading Arguments in his Capacity, to Convince Sir *Robert* of the Inequality of ſuch a Match, but all to no purpoſe; for his Paſſion increaſing each Day more violently, the more aſſiduouſly, and with the greater vehemence he preſt his Friends to uſe his Intereſt and Authority with his Lady and Daughter, to conſent to his almoſt unnatural Propoſition; offering this as the moſt weighty and prevailing Argument, which undoubtedly it

was,

was, That ſince he was a Batchelor, he wou'd ſettle his whole Eſtate upon her, if ſhe ſurvived him, on the Day of Marriage, not deſiring one Penny as a Portion with her. This Diſcourſe wrought ſo powerfully with her Mother, that ſhe promis'd the old Lover all the Aſſiſtance he cou'd Hope or Expect from her: In order to which, the next Day ſhe Acquainted her fair Daughter with the Golden Advantage ſhe was like to have, if ſhe wou'd but conſent *To lye by the Parchment that convey'd 'em to her.* The Dear, Fair Creature, was ſo ſurpriz'd at this Overture made by her Mother, that her Roſes turn'd all into Lilies, and ſhe had like to have Swoon'd away, but having a greater Command of her Paſſions than uſually our Sex have, and chiefly Perſons of her Age, ſhe, after ſome little diſorder, which by no means ſhe cou'd diſſemble, ſhe made as Dutiful a Return to her Mother's Propoſition, as her Averſion to it would permit, and for that time got liberty to retreat, and lament in Private the Misfortune which ſhe partly fore-ſaw was Impending. But her Grief (alas!) was no Cure of her Malady; for the next Day ſhe was again doubly Attack'd by her Father and Mother, with all the Reaſons that Intereſt and Duty cou'd urge, which ſhe endeavoured to Obviate by all the Arguments that Nature and Inclination cou'd offer, but ſhe found 'em all in vain, ſince they continu'd their ungrateful Sollicitations for ſeveral Days together, at

the end of which they both absolutely Commanded her to prepare her self for her Nuptials with Sir *Robert*, so that, finding herself under a necessity of Complying, or at least of seeming so; she made 'em hope that her Duty had overcome her Aversion; upon which she had a whole Week's Liberty to walk where she wou'd, unattended, or with what Company she pleas'd, and to make Visits to whom she had a Mind, either of her Relations or Acquaintance thereabouts; though for three or four Days before, she was strictly Confin'd to her Chamber.

After Dinner, on the third Day of her Enlargement, being *Summer*-Time, she propos'd to her Mother that she wou'd take a Walk to a Cousin of hers, who liv'd about Four Miles thence, to entreat her to be one of her Bride-Maids, being then in a careless, plain Dress, and having before discours'd very pleasantly and freely of her Wedding-Day, of what Friends she wou'd have Invited to that Solemnity, and what Hospitality Sir *Robert* shou'd keep when she was Marry'd to him: All which was highly agreeable to her Parents, who then cou'd not forbear Thanking and Kissing her for it, which she return'd to 'em both with a Shower of Tears. This did not a little Surprize 'em at first, but asking her what cou'd cause such signs of Sorrow after so chearful a Discourse on the late Subject. She answer'd, *That the Thoughts of her going now, suddenly to*

Live

Live from ſo Dear and Tender a Father and Mother, were the ſole occaſion of ſuch Expreſſions of Grief. This Affectionate Reply did amply Satisfie their Doubts, and ſhe preſently took leave of 'em, after having deſir'd that they wou'd not be uneaſie if ſhe ſhou'd not return till a little before 'twas dark, or if her Couſin ſhou'd oblige her to ſtay all Night with her; which they took for a diſcreet Caution in her; and conſidering that young Maidens love dearly to talk of Marriage-Affairs, eſpecially when ſo near at hand: And thus eaſily parted with her, when they had walk'd with her about a Mile, over a Field or two of their own.

Never before that time was the dear Creature glad that her Father and Mother had left her, unleſs when they had preſs'd her to a Marriage with the old Knight. They were therefore no ſooner got out of ſight, e'er ſhe took another Path that led croſs the Countrey, which ſhe purſu'd till paſt Eight at Night, having walk'd Ten Miles ſince Two a Clock, when Sir *Francis* and her Mother left her, ſhe was juſt now got to a little Cottage, the poor, but cleanly Habitation of a Husbandman and his Wife, who had one only Child, a Daughter, about the Lady *Arabella*'s Age and Stature. 'Twas happy for him ſhe got thither before they were a Bed; for her Soft and Beautiful Limbs began now to be tired, and her Tender Feet to be gall'd.

To the good Woman of the Houſe ſhe applies her ſelf, deſiring Entertainment for that Night, offering her any reaſonable Satisfaction. The good Wife at firſt Sight of her had Compaſſion of her, and immediately bid her walk in, telling her that ſhe might lye with her Daughter if ſhe pleaſed, who was very cleanly, tho not very fine. The good Man of the Houſe came in ſoon after, who was very well pleaſed with his new Gueſt; ſo to Supper they went very ſeaſonably for the poor young Lady, who was e'en ready to faint with Thirſt, and not overcharged with what ſhe had eaten the Day before. After Supper they ask'd her whence ſhe came, and how ſhe durſt venture to travel alone, and a foot. To which ſhe reply'd, that ſhe came from a Relation who liv'd at *Exeter*, with whom ſhe had ſtay'd till ſhe found ſhe was burthenſome. That ſhe was of Welſh Parents, and of a good Family; but her Father dying, left a cruel Mother-in-law, with whom ſhe cou'd by no means continue, eſpecially, ſince ſhe wou'd have forc'd her to marry an old Man, whom it was impoſſible ſhe ſhou'd love, tho he was very Rich; that ſhe was now going to ſeek her Fortune in *London*,, where ſhe hop'd, at leaſt, to get her a good Service. They all ſeem'd to pity her very heartily, and in a little time after they went to their two ſeveral Apartments; in one of which *Arabella* and the Damſel of the Houſe went to Bed, where the

the young Lady ſlept ſoundly, notwithſtanding the Hardneſs of her Lodging. In the Morning about Four, according to her Laudable Cuſtom, the young hardy Maiden got up to her daily Employment, which wakned *Arabella*, who preſently bethought her ſelf of an Expedient for her more ſecure and eaſie Eſcape from her Parents Purſuit and Knowledge, propoſing to her Bedfellow an Exchange of their Wearing Apparel. The Heireſs and Hope of that little Family was extreamly fond of the Propoſal, and ran immediately to acquaint her Mother with it, who was ſo well pleaſed, that ſhe cou'd hardly believe it, when the young Lady confirm'd it; and eſpecially, when ſhe underſtood the Exchange was to be made on even Hands. *If you be in earneſt Forſooth* (ſaid the Mother) *you ſhall e'en have her Sunday-Cloaths. Agreed* (return'd *Arabella*) *but we muſt change Shifts too; I have now a Couple about me, new and clean, I do aſſure you: For my Hoods and Head-dreſs you ſhall give me two Pinners, and her beſt Straw-Hat; and for my Shooes, which I have not worn above a Week; I will have her Holyday-Shooes. A Match indeed, young Miſtreſs;* (cry'd the Good Wife). So without more Ceremony, the young unhappy Lady was attired in her Bedfellow's Country-Weeds, by Help of the Mother and Daughter. Then after ſhe had taken her leave of the good old Man too, ſhe put a broad round Shilling into his Wife's Hand, as a Reward for her

her Supper and Lodging, which she wou'd fain have return'd, but t'other wou'd not receive it. *Nay, then, by th' Mackins,* (said her Hostess) *you shall take a Breakfast e're you go, and a Dinner along with you, for fear you shou'd be sick by the way.* *Arabella* stay'd to eat a Mess of warm Milk, and took some of their Yesterdays Provision with her in a little course Linnen-Bag. Then asking for the direct Road to *London*, and begging a few Green Wallnuts, she took her last Farewel of 'em.

Near Twelve at Noon she came to a pleasant Meadow, thro which there ran a little Rivulet of clear Water, about Nine Miles from her last Lodging, but quite out of the way to *London*. Here she sate down, and after drinking some of the Water out of the hollow of her Hand, she open'd her Bag, and made as good a Meal as the courseness of the Fare, and the niceness of her Appetite would permit: After which she bruis'd the outward green Shells of a Wallnut or two, and smear'd her lovely Face, Hands, and part of her Arms, with the Juice; then looking into the little purling Stream, that seem'd to murmur at the Injury she did to so much Beauty; she sigh'd and wept, to think to what base Extremities she was now likely to be reduc'd! That she shou'd be forced to stain that Skin which Heaven had made so pure and white! *But ah!* (cry'd she to her self) *if my Disobedience to my Parents had not stain'd my Conscience worse, this*

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needed not to have been done. Here ſhe wept abundantly again; then, drying her Eyes, ſhe waſh'd her Feet to refreſh 'em, and thence continued her Journey for Ten Miles more, which ſhe compaſs'd by Seven a Clock; when ſhe came to a Village, where ſhe got Entertainment for that Night, paying for it, and the next Morning, before Six, aſſoon as ſhe had fill'd her little Bag with what good Chear that Place afforded, ſhe wander'd on till Twelve again, ſtill croſſing the Country, and taking her Courſe to the Northern Parts of *England*, which doubtleſs was the Reaſon her Father and his Servants miſs'd of her in their Purſuit; for he imagin'd that for certain ſhe had taken her neareſt way to *London*. After ſhe had refreſh'd her ſelf for an Hours time by the ſide of a Wood; ſhe roſe and wander'd again near twelve Miles by Eight a Clock, and lodg'd at a good ſubſtantial Farmer's.

Thus ſhe continued her Errantry for above a Fortnight, having no more Money than juſt Thirty Shillings, half of which brought her to Sir *Chriſtian Kindly*'s Houſe in *Lancaſhire*. 'Twas near Five a Clock in the Afternoon, when ſhe reach'd that happy Port, when coming to the Hall-Door ſhe inquired for the Lady of the Houſe, who happily was juſt coming into the Hall with a little Miſs in her Arms, of about Four Years old, very much troubled with weak and ſore Eyes; The fair Wanderer addreſ-

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ſing her ſelf to the Lady with all the Humility & Modeſty imaginable, begg'd to know if her Ladyſhip had any Place in her Family vacant, in which ſhe might do her Service? To which the Lady return'd (by way of Queſtion) *Alas! poor Creature! what canſt thou do? Any thing, may it pleaſe your Ladyſhip*, (replied the Diſguiſed Beauty) *any thing within my Strength and my Knowledge, I mean, Madam. Thou ſayſt well* (ſaid the Lady) *and I'm ſorry I have not any vacant for thee. I beſeech your Ladyſhip then* (ſaid *Arabella*) *let me lodge in your Barn to Night; for I am told it is a great way hence to any Town, and I have but little Money. In my Barn, poor Girl!* (cry'd the Lady, looking very earneſtly on her) *Ay, God forbid elſe; unleſs we can find a better Lodging for thee. Art thou Hungry or Thirſty? Yes, Madam*, (reply'd the wandring Fair One) *I cou'd both Eat and Drink if it pleaſe your Ladyſhip.* The Lady commanded Victuals and Drink to be brought, and cou'd not forbear ſtaying in the Hall till ſhe had done; when ſhe ask'd her ſeveral Queſtions; as of what Country ſhe was? To which ſhe anſwer'd, truly of *Somerſetſhire.* What her Parents were, and if living. To which ſhe return'd, *They were Good, Honeſt, and Religious People, and ſhe hop'd they were alive, and in as good Health as when ſhe left 'em.* After the Lady had done Catechiſing her, *Arabella*, looking on the little Child in her Ladyſhips Arms, ſaid, *Pardon me, Madam, I be-*

ſeech

ſeech you, if I am too bold in asking your Lady-ſhip how that pretty Creatures Eyes came to be ſo bad? By an extream Cold which ſhe took (reply'd the Lady.) *I had not preſum'd* (return'd t'other) *to have asked your Ladyſhip this Queſtion, were I not aſſur'd that I have an Infallible Cure for the Infirmity: And if* (*Madam*) *you will be pleaſed to let me apply it, I will tell your Ladyſhip the Remedy in private.* The Lady was much ſurpriz'd to hear a young Creature ſo meanly habited, talk ſo gentilely; and after ſurveying her very ſtrictly, ſaid the Lady, *Have you ever experimented it before?* *Yes Madam,* (reply'd the fair Phyſitian) *and never without happy Succeſs: I dare engage, Madam,* (added ſhe) *that I will make 'em as well as my own, by God's Bleſſing, or elſe I will be content to loſe mine; which Heaven forbid. Amen* (cry'd the good Lady) *for they are very fine ones on my word.—Stay Child, I will deſire Sir* Chriſtian *to hear it with me, and if he approves it, you ſhall about it; and if it take good Effect, we will endeavour to requite the Care and Pains it ſhall coſt you:* Saying thus, ſhe immediately left her, and return'd very ſpeedily with Sir *Chriſtian,* who having diſcourſed *Arabella* for ſome time with great Satisfaction & Pleaſure, took her into the Parlour with his Lady, where ſhe Communicated her Secret to 'em both; which they found ſo Innocent and Reaſonable, that they deſir'd her to prepare it as ſoon as poſſible, and to make her Application of it withal convenient ſpeed; which

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ſhe cou'd not do till the next Morning. In the mean time ſhe was order'd a Lodging with the Houſe-Maid, who Reported to her Lady, *That ſhe found her a very ſweet and cleanly Bed-fellow*; adding, *That ſhe never ſaw nor felt ſo white, ſo ſmooth, and ſoft a Skin.* *Arabella* continu'd her Remedy with ſuch good Succeſs, that in a Fortnights time, little Miſs's Eyes were as lively and ſtrong as ever. This ſo endear'd her to the Knight and his Lady, that they Created a new Office in their Family, purpoſely for her; which was Attendant on their Eldeſt Daughter *Eleanora*, a Lady much about her Years and Stature, who was ſo Charmed with her Converſation, that ſhe cou'd not ſtir abroad, nor Eat, nor Sleep, without *Peregrina Goodhouſe* (for thoſe were the Names ſhe borrow'd:) Nor was her Modeſty, Humility, and Sweetneſs of Temper, leſs engaging to her Fellow-Servants, who all ſtrove which ſhou'd beſt expreſs their Love to her. On Feſtival-Days, and for the Entertainment of Strangers, ſhe wou'd lend her helping Hand to the Cook, and make the Sauſe for every Diſh, though her own Province was only to Attend the young Lady, and prepare the Quidlings, and other Sweet-Meats, for the Reception of Sir *Chriſtian*'s Friends, all which ſhe did to Admiration. In this ſtate of eaſie Servitude ſhe liv'd there for near Three Years, very well contented at all times, but when ſhe bethought her ſelf of her Father, Mother and Siſters, Courted by

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all the principal Men-Servants, whom she refus'd in so obliging a manner, and with such sweet, obliging Words, that they cou'd not think themselves injur'd, though they found their Addresses were in vain. Mr. *Prayfast*, the Chaplain himself, cou'd not hold out against her Charms. For her Skin had long since recover'd its Native Whiteness; nor did she need Ornaments of Cloaths to set her Beauty off, if any thing cou'd Adorn her, since she was dress'd altogether as Costly, though not so Richly (perhaps) as *Eleanora*. *Prayfast* therefore found that the Spirit was too weak for the Flesh, and gave her very broad Signs of his Kindness in Sonnets, Anagrams, and Acrosticks, which she receiv'd very obligingly of him, taking a more convenient time to Laugh at 'em with her young Lady.

Her kind Reception of 'em encourag'd him to that Degree, that within a few Days after, supposing himself secure on her side, he apply'd himself to the good Old Knight, his Patron, for his Consent to a Marriage with her, who very readily comply'd with his Demands, esteeming it a very advantagious Match for *Peregrina*, and withal told him, *That he wou'd give him Three Hundred Pounds with her, besides the first Benefit that shou'd fall within his Gift. But* (said he) *as I doubt not that you are sufficiently Acquainted with her Virtues, and other excellent Qualifications, 'tis necessary that you shou'd know the*

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worſt that I can tell you of her, which is, That ſhe came to us a meer Stranger, in a very mean, though cleanly Habit; and therefore, as ſhe has own'd to us, we may conclude, of very humble, yet honeſt Parentage. A! (poſſibly) her Father might have been, or is, ſome Husbandman, or ſome-what Inferiour to that; for we took her up at the Door, begging one Night's Entertainment in the Barn. How, Sir! (cry'd *Prayfaſt*, ſtarting) have you no better knowledge of her Birth, then what you are pleas'd to diſcover now? *No better, nor more* (Reply'd the Knight.) Alas! Sir, then (return'd the Proud Canonical ſort of a Farmer) She is no Wife for me: I ſhall diſhonour my Family by Marrying ſo baſely. Were you never told any thing of this before? (ask'd the Knight.) You know, Sir, (Anſwer'd the Prelate that wou'd be) that I have not had the Honour to Officiate, as your Chaplain, much more than half a Year; in which time, 'tis true, I have heard that ſhe was Receiv'd as a Stranger; but that ſhe came in ſo low a Capacity, I never learn'd till now. *I find then Parſon,* (ſaid the Knight) *That you do not like the Author of your Happineſs, at leaſt, who might be ſo, becauſe ſhe comes to you in ſuch an humble manner; I tell you the Jews are miſerable for the ſame Reaſon.* She cannot be ſuch perfectly to me (return'd t'other) without the Advantage of good Birth. *With that I'm ſure ſhe wou'd not,* return'd his Patron, and left him, to go to *Peregrin*, whom he happily found alone.

Child

Child (said he to her) *Have you any Obligation to Mr.* Prayfast? As how, Sir? she ask'd. *Do you love him? Have you made him any Promise of Marriage? Or, has he any way Engaged himself to you?* Neither, Sir (she Answer'd.) 'Tis true, I love him as my Fellow-Servant, no otherwise. He has indeed been some-what Lavish of his Wit and Rhimes to me, which serv'd well enough to divert my young Lady and me. But of all Mankind, perhaps, he shou'd be the last I wou'd chuse for a Husband. *I thought* (said the good humour'd old Knight) *that he had already obtain'd a Promise from you, since he came but just now to ask my Consent, which I freely gave him at first, upon that Thought; but he is doubtful of your Birth, and fears it may dishonour his Family, if he shou'd Marry you.* On my Word, Sir (return'd *Peregrina*, blushing, with disdain, no doubt) our Families are by no means equal. *What thy Family is I know not* (said Sir *Christian*) *but I am sure thou art infinitely Superiour to him in all the Natural Embellishments both of Body and Mind. Be just to thy self, and be not hasty to Wed; Thou hast more Merit than Wealth alone can Purchase.* O! dear Sir (she return'd) you Ruin me with Obligations, never to be Re-paid but in Acknowledgment, and that imperfectly too. Here they were Interrupted by the young Lady, to whom she Repeated the Conference betwixt Sir *Christian*, and *Prayfast*, as soon as ever Sir *Christian* left the Room.

About a Week after, Sir *Lucius Lovewell*, a young Gentleman, of a good Preſence, Wit and Learning enough, whoſe Father dying near a Twelve-month before, had left him upwards of 3000 *l.* a Year, which too was an Excellent Accompliſhment, though not the beſt, for he was admirably good Humour'd, came to Viſit Sir *Chriſtian Kindly*, and as ſome of the Family imagin'd, 'twas with deſign to make his Addreſſes to the young Lady, Sir *Chriſtian*'s Daughter; whatever his Thoughts were, his Treatment there was very generous and kind. He ſaw the Lady, and lik'd her very well; nay, doubtleſs, wou'd have admitted a Paſſion for her, had not his Deſtiny at the ſame time ſhewn him *Peregrina*. She was very Beautiful, and he as ſenſible; and 'tis not to be doubted but that he immediately took Fire. However, his Application and Courtſhip, free and unaffected as it was, were chiefly directed to Sir *Chriſtian*'s Daughter: Some little Reſpects he paid to *Peregrina*, who cou'd not chooſe but look on him as a very fine, good-humour'd, and well Accompliſh'd Gentleman. When the Hour came that he thought fit to retreat, Sir *Chriſtian* ask'd him, When he wou'd make 'em Happy again in his Converſation? To which he return'd, *That ſince he was not above ſeven or eight Miles from him, and that there were Charms ſo Attractive at Sir* Chriſtian's, *he ſhou'd take the liberty to Viſit him ſooner and oftner, than he either expected or deſir'd.* T'other

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reply'd, That was impoſſible; and ſo without much more Ceremony, he took his leave of that delightful Company for two or three Days; at the end of which he return'd with Thoughts much different from thoſe at his firſt coming thither, being ſtrongly Agitated by his Paſſion for *Peregrina*. He took and made all the opportunities and occaſions that Chance and his own Fancy cou'd offer and preſent to Talk to her both before, at, and after Dinner, and his Eyes were ſo conſtantly fix'd on her, that he ſeem'd to obſerve nothing elſe, which was ſo viſible to Sir *Chriſtian*, his Lady and Daughter, that they were Convinc'd of their Error, in believing that he came to make his Court to the young Lady. This late Diſcovery of the young Knight's Inclinations, was no way unpleaſant to Sir *Chriſtian* and his Lady, and to the young Lady it was moſt agreeable and obliging, ſince her Heart was already preengag'd elſewhere; and ſince ſhe did equally deſire the good Fortune of her Beautiful Attendant with her own.

The Table was no ſooner clear'd, and a Loyal Health or two gone round, e'er Sir *Chriſtian* ask'd his young Amorous Gueſt to take a Walk with him in the Gardens: To which Sir *Lucius* readily conſented, deſigning to diſcloſe that to him for a Secret, which was but too apparent to all that were preſent at Table: When therefore he thought he had ſufficiently Admir'd and

Commended the neatneſs of the Walks, and beauty of the Flowers, he began to this Effect:

Poſſibly Sir Chriſtian, *I ſhall ſurprize you with the Diſcourſe I'm going to make you; but 'tis certain, no Man can avoid the neceſſity of the Fate which he lies under; at leaſt I have now found it ſo.—— I came at firſt, Sir, with the hopes of prevailing on you, to Honour and make me happy in a Marriage with Madam* Eleanora *your Daughter; but at the ſame inſtant I was ſeiz'd with ſo irreſiſtible a Paſſion for the Charming* Peregrina, *that I find no Empire, Fame nor Wit, can make me perfectly Bleſt here below, without the Enjoyment of that Beautiful Creature. Do not miſtake me, Sir, (I beſeech you, continu'd he) I mean an* Honourable Enjoyment —— *I will make her my Wife, Sir, if you will be generouſly pleas'd to uſe your Intereſt with her on my part.*

To which the good old Knight reply'd, What you think (Sir) you have now imparted as a Secret has been the general Obſervation of all my Family e'er ſince you gave us the Happineſs of your Company to day: Your Paſſion is too great to be diſguiſed; and I am extreamly pleaſed that you can think any thing in my Houſe worthy the Honour you intend *Peregrina.* Indeed, had you made any particular and publick Addreſs to my Daughter, I ſhould have believ'd it want of Merit in her, or in us,

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her Parents, that you ſhould after that quit your Pretenſions to her, without any willing or known Offence committed on our ſide. I therefore (Sir) approve your Choice, and promiſe you my utmoſt Aſſiſtance afar. She is really virtuous in all the Latitude of Virtue; Her Beauty is too viſible to be diſputed by, ev'n by Envy it ſelf: As for her Birth, ſhe leſs can inform you of it; I muſt only let you know, that as her Name imports ſhe was utterly a Stranger, and entertain'd by us in pure Charity. But the Antiquity and Honour of your Family can receive no Diminution by a Match with a Beautiful and Virtuous Creature, for whom, you ſay, and I believe, you have ſo true a Paſſion. I have now told you the worſt (Sir) that I know of her; but your Wealth and Love may make you both eternally happy on Earth. And ſo they ſhall, *by her Dear ſelf* (return'd the AmorousKnight) if both of 'em may recommend me to her, with your Perſwaſions added, which ſtill I beg. Say, rather you *Command*; and with thoſe Three Hundred Pounds which I promiſed her, if ſhe marry'd with my Conſent to Sir *Lucius*.

To this, the other ſmiling, reply'd, *Her Perſon and Love is all I court or expect, Sir: But ſince you have thought her worthy of ſo great an Expreſſion of your Favour and Kindneſs, I will receive it with all Humility as is from a Father, which I ſhall ever eſteem you—*

But see, Sir, (cry'd he in an Extasie) *how she comes, led by Madam* Peregrina, *your Daughter.* The young Lady coming to him, began thus. *I know (Sir) 'tis my Father and Mother's Desire and Ambition to shew you the heartiest Welcome in their Power, which can be no means be made appear so particularly and undisputably, as by presenting you with what you like best in the Family; In Assurance therefore that I shall merit their Favour by this Act, I have brought your Dear* Peregrina *to you, not without Advice, and some Instructions of mine, that may concern her Happiness with you, if discretly observ'd, and pursued by her. In short (Sir) I have told her that a Gentleman of so Good a Figure, such excellent Parts, and generous Education of so Antient and Honourable a Family; together with so plentiful an Estate, as you at present possess, is capable of bringing Happiness to any, the Fairest Lady in this Country at least.* O Madam (return'd *Sir Lucius*) your Obligation is so great, that I want Sense to receive it as I ought; much more Words to return you any proportionable Acknowledgment of it. But give me Leave to say thus much, Madam; that my Thoughts of making my Court to your Ladyship first invited me to give Sir *Christian* your Father, the trouble of a Visit, since the Death of mine. However, the over-ruling Powers have thought to divert my purpose, and the Offering of my Heart, which can never rest, but with this *Dear Charming Creature.*——Your Merits,

rits, Madam ——are ſufficient for the Gentleman on whom I entirely fix'd my Affections, before you did me the Honour, and your ſelf the Trouble of your firſt Viſit, interrupted Sir *Chriſtian*'s Daughter. *And now, Sir,* (added ſhe to her Father) *if you pleaſe, let us leave 'em to make an end of this Buſineſs between themſelves.* No, Madam, (cry'd *Sir Lucius*) your Father has promiſed me to make uſe of his Intereſt with her for my ſake. This I now expect, Sir. *Then* (*ſaid the Old Knight*) *thou Dear Beautiful and Virtuous Stranger! If I have any Power to perſwade thee, take my Advice, and this Honourable Gentleman to thy loving Husband; I'm ſure he'll prove ſo to thee. If I could command thee, I would.* Ah Sir! (ſaid ſhe, kneeling, with Tears falling from her Charming Eyes) I know none living that has greater Right and Power. —— But (alas Sir!) this Honourable Perſon knows not the Meanneſs of my Birth, at leaſt, he cannot think it any way proportionable or ſuitable to His. *O thou dear Creature,* (*cry'd her Lover, ſetting one Knee to the Ground, and taking her up*) *Sir* Chriſtian *has already diſcourſed all thy Circumſtances to me. Riſe and Bleſs me with thy Conſent.* I muſt ask my Lady's, Sir, (ſhe reply'd). See, here my Mother comes (ſaid the young Lady) and entreated her good Word for Sir *Lucius*. The good antient Lady began then to uſe all the Arguments to incline her to yield to her Happineſs; and in fine, ſhe was pre-

vail'd on to ſay, *I do Conſent, and will endeavour to deſerve the Honourable Title of your Dutiful Wife, Sir.* 'Twas with no common Joy and Tranſport that he receiv'd her Hand, and kiſſed thoſe dear Lips that gave him an Aſſurance of his Happineſs; which he reſolv'd ſhould begin about a Month or two afterwards; in which time, he might ſend Orders to *London* for the making their Wedding Cloaths. Into the Houſe then they all went, Sir *Lucius* leading *Peregrina*, and the firſt they met of the Family was *Prayfaſt*, who was not a little ſurpriz'd nor diſcompos'd at that Sight; and more eſpecially when Sir *Chriſtian* told him, *That tho he did not think that Beautiful Sweet Stranger worthy the Title of his Wife, yet now he ſhou'd be obliged to joyn her to that Honourable Perſon.* The Slave bow'd, and look'd very pale.

All things were at laſt got ready for the Conſummation of their Bliſs, and *Prayfaſt* did their Buſineſs effectually, tho much againſt his Will, however he receiv'd the Reward of Twenty broad Pieces. The Wedding was kept for a Week at Sir *Chriſtian*'s Houſe; after which they adjourn'd to the Bridegroom's, where it laſted as long as at Sir *Chriſtian*'s; his Lady, Daughter, and the reſt of that Family would ſtay. As they were leaving him, Sir *Lucius* diſpos'd of Two Hundred Pounds amongſt Sir *Chriſtian*'s Servants,

Servants, and the reſt of the Three Hundred he diſtributed among the Poor of both Pariſhes.

When they were gone, the Affectionate Tender Bridegroom cou'd by no means be perſwaded by any Gentlemen, his Neighbours, to hunt with 'em, or to take any Divertiſement, tho but for half a Day; eſteeming it the higheſt Unkindneſs imaginable to leave his Lady: Not that ſhe could be alone neither in his Abſence; for ſhe never wanted the Viſits of all the Ladies round about, and thoſe of the beſt Quality; who were equally Charm'd with her Sweetneſs of Temper, as the Men were with her outward Beauties. But in a Months time, or thereabout, obſerving that he was continually ſollicited and courted to ſome Sport or Paſtime with thoſe Gentlemen of his Neighbourhood, ſhe was forc'd to her ſelf the Violence to beg of him that he would divert himſelf with 'em as before their Marriage he us'd: And ſhe had ſo good Succeſs, that he did allow himſelf two Days in the Week to hunt: In one of which, coming home about Five a Clock, and not finding his Lady below Stairs, he went directly up to her Chamber, where he ſaw her leaning her Head on her Hand, and her Handkercheif all bath'd in Tears. At this Sight he was ſtrangely amaz'd and concern'd. *Madam, (cry'd he, in an unuſual Tone) what means ſuch Poſtures as theſe?*

these? Tell me! For I must know the occasion. Surprized and Trembling at this his unwonted manner of saluting her, she started up, and then, falling on her Knees, she wept out, *O thou Dear Author and Lord of all my Joys on Earth! Look not, I beseech you, so wildly, nor speak terribly to me!* Thou Center of all my Happiness below (return'd he) Rise and make me acquainted with the dreadful Occasion of this Afflicting, and Tormenting Sight! *All you shall know,* (*she reply'd*) *Dearest of Humane Blessings! But sit, and change your Looks; then I can speak.* Speak then, my Life (said he) but tell me all; All I must know. *Is there a Thought about my Soul that you shall not partake?* I'm sure there is not, (he reply'd) say on then. *You know, Sir,* (*she return'd*) *that I have left my Parents now Three Years, or thereabouts, and know not whether they are Living or Dead. I was reflecting therefore on the Troubles which my undutiful and long Absence may have caused 'em. For, poor and mean as they may be, they well instructed me in all good things; and I wou'd once more, by your dear Permission, see 'em, and beg their Pardon for my Fault: For, they're my Parents still, if living, Sir; tho (unhappily) not worth Your Regard.* How! (cry'd he) can that Pair who gave my Dearest Birth, want my Regard! or ought I can do for 'em! No, Thou shalt see 'em, and so will I. But tell me, *Peregrina*, Is this the only Cause of your Discomposure? *So may I still be bless'd in your dear Love* (*she reply'd*) *as this is Truth,*

Truth, and all the Cauſe. When ſhall we ſee 'em then? (he asked) *We ſee 'em* (cry'd ſhe) *O your Goodneſs deſcends too much; and you confound me with your unmerited and unexpected Kindneſs. 'Tis I alone that have offended, and I alone am fit to ſee 'em.* That muſt not be (return'd her Affectionate Husband) no, we'll both go together; and if they want, either provide for 'em there, or take 'em hither with us. Your Education ſhews their Principles, and 'tis no Shame to own Virtuous Relations. Come, dry thy dear lamenting Eyes; the beginning of the next Week we'll ſet forwards. *Was ever Diſobedience ſo rewarded with ſuch a Husband!* (*ſaid ſhe*) *thoſe Tears have waſh'd that Childiſh Guilt away. And there is no Reward above thy Virtue.*

In a few Days *Monday* began the Date of their Journey to the Weſt of *England*; and in Five or Six Days more, by the help of a Coach and Six, they got to *Cornwall*; where, in a little Town, of little Accommodation, they were oblig'd to take up their Lodgings the firſt Night. In the Morning (ſaid his Lady to him) *My Dear, about a Mile and a half hence lives one Sir* Francis Fairname *and his Lady, if yet they be living, who have a very fine Houſe, and worth your ſeeing; I beg of you therefore, that you will be ſo kind to your ſelf as to walk thither, and Dine with the old Gentleman; for that you muſt, if you ſee him; whilſt I ſtay here, and ſend to my Father*

Father and Mother, if to be found, and prepare 'em to receive you at your Return. I must not have no Denial (added she) *for if you refuse this Favour, all my Designs are lost*——*Make haste my Life; 'tis now Eleven a Clock. In your Absence I'll dress, to try if Change of Cloaths can hide me from 'em.* This was so small a Request, that he did not stay to reply to't, but presently left her, and got thither in less than half an Hour, attended only by one Footman. He was very kindly and respectfully receiv'd by the old Gentleman, who had certainly been a very Beautiful Person in his Youth; and Sir *Lucius* fixing his Eyes upon his Face, could hardly remove 'em, being very pleasantly and surprisingly entertain'd with some Lines that he observ'd in it. But immediately recollecting himself, he told him, that having heard how fine a Seat that was, his Curiosity led him to beg the Favour that he might see it. The worthy old Knight return'd, that his House and all the Accommodations in it, were at his Service: So inviting him in, he satisfied his pretended Curiosity; and after he had shewn all that was worthy the sight of a Stranger in the House, he led him into his Gardens, which furnish'd Sir *Lucius* with new matter of Admiration; whence the old Knight brought him into the Parlour, telling him that 'twas his Custom to suffer no Stranger to return till he had either din'd or supp'd

ſupp'd with him, according as the Hour of the Day or Night preſented.

'Twas here the Affectionate Husband was ſtrangely ſurpriz'd at the Sight of a Picture, which ſo nearly counterfeited the Beauties of his dear liv'd Lady, that he ſtood like an Image himſelf, gazing and varying; the Colours of his Face agitating by the Diverſity of his Thoughts; which Sir *Francis* perceiving, ask'd him what it was that ſo viſibly concern'd him? To which he reply'd, That indeed he was concern'd, but with great Satisfaction and Pleaſure, ſince he had never ſeen any thing more Beautiful than that Picture, unleſs it were a Lady for whom he had the moſt ſincere Affection imaginable, and whom it did very nearly repreſent; and then enquir'd for whom that was drawn? Sir *Francis* anſwer'd him, *'Twas deſign'd for one who* Was, *I dare not ſay who* Is *my Daughter, and the other two were drawn for her younger Siſters, And ſee, Sir,* (purſued he) *here they come following their Mother*: At which Words Sir *Lucius* was obliged to divorce his Eyes from the *Charming Shadow*, and make his Compliments to them; which were no ſooner over than Dinner was ſerv'd in, where the young Knight eat as heartily as he could, conſidering he ſate juſt oppoſite to it, and in ſight of the two Ladies, who were now exactly like his own Wife, tho not ſo very Beautiful.

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The Table being uncover'd, Sir *Lucius* desir'd to know why the Sir *Francis* said he doubted whether the Original of that Picture were yet his Daughter? To which the Mother return'd, (big with Sorrow, which was seen in her Tears) *That her Husband had spoken but too rightly: For* (added she) *'tis now Three Years since we have either seen her, or heard from her.* How Madam! Three Years (cry'd Sir *Lucius*) I believe I can shew your Ladyship a dear Acquaintance of mine, so wonderfully like that Picture, that I am almost perswaded she is the very Original; only (pardon me, Madam) she tells me her Parents are of mean Birth and Fortune. *Dear Sir,* (cry'd the Tender Mother) *Is she in this Country?* She is not Two Miles hence, (reply'd Sir *Lucius*). *By all things most dear to you, Sir,* (said the Lady) *let us be so happy as to see her, and that with all convenient Expedition! For, it will be a Happiness to see any Creature, the only* Like my Dearest Arabella. *Arabella,* Madam! Alas. No, Madam, her Name is *Peregrina. No matter for Names, Sir,* (cry'd the Lady) *I want the Sight of the dear Creature. Sir,* (added the worthy old Knight) *I can assure you it will be an Eternal Obligation to us; or if you please we will on you to her.* By no means, Sir, (return'd Sir *Lucius*) I will repeat my Trouble to you with her in an Hour at fartherst. *We shall desire the Continuance of such Trouble as long as we live* (reply'd Sir

Sir *Francis*). So without farther Ceremony Sir *Lucius* left 'em, and return'd to his Lady, whom he found ready dreſs'd, as he wiſh'd he might. *Madam* (ſaid he) *where are your Father and Mother?* I know not yet, my Dear, ſhe repiy'd. *Well* (return'd he) *we will expect 'em, or ſend for 'em hither at Night; in the mean time I have engag'd to bring you with me to Sir* Francis Fairname *and his Lady with all imaginable Expedition.* So immediately as ſoon as Coach and Six, and Equipage, was ready, he hurry'd her away with him to Sir *Francis*, whom they found walking with his Lady and two Daughters in the outward Court, impatiently expecting their Coming. The Boot of the Coach (for that was the Faſhion in thoſe Days) was preſently let down, and Sir *Lucius* led his Lady forwards to them; who coming within Three or Four Paces of the good old Knight, his Lady fell on her Knees, and begg'd their Pardon and Bleſſing. Her Affectionate Father anſwer'd 'em with Tears from his Eyes; but the good antient Lady was ſo overcome with Joy, that ſhe fell into a Swoon, and had like to have been accompanied by her Daughter, who fell upon her Knees by her, and with her Shrieks recall'd her, when ſhe ſtrait cry'd out, *My Daughter, my Daughter's come again! my* Arabella *alive!* Ay, my dear offended Mother, with all the Duty and Penitence that Humanity is capable of, return'd the Lady *Lovewell.* Her Siſters then expreſt their Love in Tears, Embraces and

Kiſſes

Kiſſes, while her dear Husband begg'd a bleſſing of her Parents, who were very pleaſantly ſurpriz'd to know that their Daughter was ſo happily marry'd, and to a Gentleman of ſuch an Eſtate and Quality as Sir *Lucius* ſeem'd to be: 'Twas late that Night e're they went to Bed at Sir *Francis*'s. The next day, after they had all pretty well eas'd themſelves of their Paſſions, Sir *Francis* told his Son-in-Law, that as he had three Daughters, ſo he had 3000 *l.* a Year, and he wou'd divide it equally among 'em; but for Joy of the Recovery of his eldeſt Daughter, and her Fortunate Match with ſo worthy a Gentleman as Sir *Lucius*, who had given him an Account of his Eſtate and Quality, he promiſed him Ten Thouſand Pounds in ready Money beſides; whereas the other young Ladies were to have but Five Thouſand apeece, beſides their Dividend of the Eſtate. *And now* (ſaid he) *Daughter, the Cauſe of your Retreat from us, old* Sir Robert Richland *has been dead theſe Three Months on ſuch a day.* How, Sir, (cry'd ſhe) on ſuch a day! That was the very Day on which I was ſo happy as to be marry'd to my Dear Sir *Lucius.*

She then gave her Father and Mother, and Siſters, a Relation of all that had happen'd to her ſince her Abſence from her Dear Parents, who were extreamly pleaſed with the Account of Sir

Sir *Chriſtian* and his Lady's Hoſpitality and Kindneſs to her; and in leſs than a Fortnight after they took a Journey to Sir *Lucius*'s, carrying the two other young Ladies along with 'em, and by the way they call'd at Sir *Chriſtian*'s, where they arriv'd time enough to be preſent the next Day at Sir *Chriſtian*'s Daughter's Wedding, which they kept there for a whole Fortnight.

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